

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2015 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MAYOR: Alfonso E. Ortiz, Jr.

COUNCILORS: Tonita Gurule-Giroñ
David L. Romero
Joey Herrera
Vincent Howell – Absent

ALSO PRESENT: Elmer J. Martinez – City Manager
Casandra Fresquez – City Clerk
David Romero – City Attorney - Absent
Juan Montano – Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. asked for a moment of silence to remember those who are going through illness and reported that Councilor Howell was doing well after his surgery. Mayor Ortiz, Jr. expressed how precious life is as well as our health and that we should strive to do the best with our lives.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Gurule-Giroñ made a motion to remove Business Items 1 and 2 to from the agenda and to be brought to the next meeting to allow for Public Input. Councilor Romero seconded the motion.

Councilor Gurule-Giroń advised that she had reviewed Business Item 1 concerning the Airport Hangar and Property Lease Agreement and added that she had several questions and concerns regarding budget costs, debt service and other issues prior to approval.

Councilor Gurule-Giroń stated that City Attorney Romero was not there to present the Business Item he had submitted regarding the Airport Hangar and added that she would like further public input and that this was not the ideal time.

Councilor Gurule-Giroń advised that the meeting was called by Legislative Council for the sole purpose of Executive Session.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. advised that the reasoning for adding Business Items 1 and 2 to the agenda was regarding the Recreation Center and acquiring a good rate of interest on the loan agreement for construction and improvements and commented on the urgency pertaining to the Airport Hangar and Property Lease Agreement.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. advised that he felt it was important to consider the \$800,000 investment to improve the Airport facility and informed that Mr. Paul Lewicki was present and Paralegal Darlene Arguello was there to represent City Attorney Romero.

Councilor Herrera explained that he understood that the meeting was called for Executive Session but advised that this Business Item had been currently reviewed by the Governing Body and added that the sense of urgency was critical regarding the weather and the expense to Mr. Lewicki .

Councilor Herrera advised that the economic value would help the facility as well as to the City of Las Vegas and advised that he would hate to see the Business Item not considered at this time due to the fact that Mr. Lewicki made the costly effort to be present.

Councilor Gurule-Giroń advised that she did support the Business Item but stated that she had questions regarding the item and felt that City Attorney Romero

should be present to address those questions. Councilor Gurule-Giroń added that both Business Items required public input.

Discussion took place of the issues concerning the Business Item pertaining to the Airport Hangar project.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. advised that both Business Items would be delayed until the next week's Council meeting and apologized to Mr. Lewiki for the delay and added that he was hopeful that everyone would be accepting to the proposed project.

Mr. Lewicki advised Councilor Gurule-Giroń that he was available to address any questions or concerns regarding the contract on the Airport Hangar project.

Councilor Gurule-Giroń stated that she had a tremendous amount of questions that should be addressed by City Attorney Romero due to the fact that he created the contract and felt that no one present, would be prepared to answer those questions.

Mr. Lewicki stated that if the contract would be approved next week, that he would request that the additional process of approving the design, be expedited due to the fact that winter was quickly approaching.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Joey Herrera	No	Tonita Gurule-Giroń	Yes
David L. Romero	Yes	Vincent Howell	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. advised that Councilor Howell was recovering well after undergoing surgery.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. reported that the proposal for the lease of the old State Police Building would be presented at the next meeting for final approval from the Governing Body.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. advised that after trying to negotiate with La Morada members by both the City of Las Vegas and the New Mexico State Engineer's Office had come to no avail and advised that other options would have to be looked into as to not lose the funding available.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. stated that a Recognition for Mr. Ed Hern who had passed recently was created in order to honor him as a survivor of the Bataan Death March.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. advised that Utilities Director Ken Garcia would be making an important announcement.

Utilities Director Garcia announced that the City of Las Vegas had been experiencing low water quality and explained that the Water Surface Treatment Plant treats the water by taking out turbidity which is cloudiness in the water that is made up of sediment.

Utilities Director Garcia explained that the levels usually come in at below 3 units and it is taken out to below .3 and explained that the levels are currently at .7 which was still below the limit of 1 turbidity unit, which would require a need to boil water order.

Utilities Director Garcia advised that during the less than optimal treatment on the water levels, a public notice would be issued and would have to be approved by the Environment Department and informed it would be issued out the following week.

Utilities Director Garcia stated that chlorine; a disinfectant had been increased to counter the less than optimal treatment and added that additional monitoring would be performed in the distribution system for chlorine and coli forms.

Utilities Director Garcia informed that they were continuing to trouble-shoot the cause and advised that the cause was related to a chemical treatment mixture.

Utilities Director Garcia explained that there could be a number of reasons for not having the optimal dosage of chemicals and advised they expected to have these problems corrected within the next couple of weeks.

Utilities Director Garcia advised that new chemicals were ordered to make sure it was not the chemicals previously used and assured that at this point there was no cause for concern.

Councilor Herrera stated that the City recently worked with engineers on the redesign of the Water Treatment Plant and asked if they had come up with plans that had helped or made matters worse.

Utilities Director Garcia advised that he could not confirm at this time because of the fact that they were still troubleshooting and investigating.

Councilor Herrera asked if the engineers had recommended changing the parts per million being added.

Utilities Director Garcia advised that it was the engineer's recommendation but added that that was not the only possibility as a cause for the problems.

Councilor Herrera mentioned broken lines being a factor and asked if the facility was being used for storage of heavy equipment.

Utilities Director Garcia advised that equipment used to repair Bradner is being stored there and added that that could be a source of the problem but advised that he would not speculate at this point for the reason of there being too many factors of what could be causing the problem.

Councilor Herrera asked what the City had spent on engineers regarding the Water Treatment Plant and asked how often monitoring was taking place.

Utilities Director Garcia advised that the contract was for \$350,000.00, for a different project but the engineers did make recommendations to improve water treatment and advised that continuous monitoring is taking place every minute

and explained that the system would alarm on-call operators automatically if there was a problem.

Utilities Director Garcia clarified that the State was aware of the problem and that the City was working closely with them as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Gurule-Giroń made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and read into the record under Article II, The Governing Body, B. page 8; Special Meetings may be held on the call of the Mayor or of three or more members of the Council. Councilor Romero seconded the motion.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Tonita Gurule-Giroń	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes
Joey Herrera	Yes	Vincent Howell	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

Councilor Herrera made a motion to reconvene into regular session and advised that no decisions were made, no votes were taken and only matters of personnel were discussed. Councilor Romero seconded the motion.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David L. Romero	Yes	Joey Herrera	Yes
Tonita Gurule-Giroń	Yes	Vincent Howell	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.

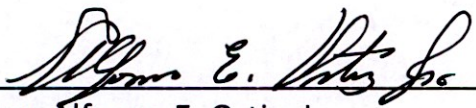
ADJOURN

Councilor Gurule-Giroń made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Romero seconded the motion.

Mayor Ortiz, Jr. asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

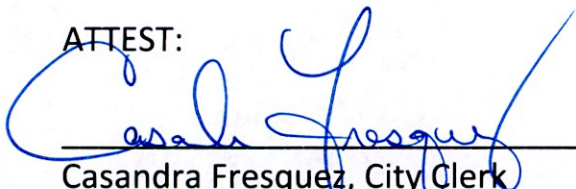
Joey Herrera	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes
Tonita Gurule-Giroñ	Yes	Vincent Howell	Absent

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised the motion carried.



Mayor Alfonso E. Ortiz, Jr.

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk